

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 DLOS-07 H-03 L-03 COA-02 CG-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 FEA-02 AID-20

CEQ-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 NSF-04 SCI-06 ACDA-19

AEC-11 AECE-00 AGR-20 DOTE-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-02 /228 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP TUCK SCULLY

APPROVED BY D/LOS STUART H. MCINTYRE

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P 1,2030Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE ,51065

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: INITIAL REACTION TO AMBASSADOR STEVENSON'S

PLENARY STATEMENT - MEDIA AND MUSKIE

REF: CARACAS 6363

PASS USDEL LOS

1. AMBASSADOR STEVENSON'S JULY 11 PLENARY STATEMENT TO LOS CONFERENCE RECEIVED MODERATE PRESS PLAY JULY 12.

WASHINGTON POST CARRIED A UPI ACCOUNT; WHILE NEW YORK TIMES USED REUTERS VERSION. (IF THESE REPORTS NOT AVAILABLE TO DEL, WE WILL BE GLAD TO FORWARD THEM.) CBS

REPORTED STATEMENT AS LEADING ITEM ON EVENING NEWS JULY 11. COVERAGE FEATURED US CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE.

2. SENATOR MUSKIE ALSO ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE

LATE JULY 11: "I WARMLY WELCOME THE CHANGE IN U.S.

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OCEANS POLICY ANNOUNCED TODAY IN CARACAS AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE BY AMBASSADOR STEVENSON. THE DECISION ON OUR PART TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200 MILE FISHING ECONOMIC ZONE AND TO ABANDON THE SPECIES APPROACH TO FISH IS LONG OVERDUE AND VITAL TO THE PROTECTION OF THIS COUNTRY'S OFFSHORE RESOURCES.

3. SINCE THE EARLY 1960'S, THE U.S. HAS PASSIVELY STOOD BY WHILE FOREIGN VESSELS HAVE VIRTUALLY DEPLETED OUR OFFSHORE STOCKS. NEITHER BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NOR REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS LIKE ICNAF HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE IN

PROTECTING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE U.S. FISHING INDUSTRY OR CONSERVING VARIOUS STOCKS. EXTENDING COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES, WITH PROPER ENFORCEMENT, IS THE ONLY REAL ANSWER TO THE DIFFICULT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD FACE TODAY. I HOPE THIS APPROACH WILL ULTIMATELY BE ADOPTED BY ALL OF THE NATIONS ATTENDING THE CARACAS CONFERENCE. AND AS AN ADVISER TO THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE CONFERENCE, I INTEND TO DO WHAT I CAN TO INCREASE ACCEPTANCE OF THE 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT.

4. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CHANGE IN U.S. OCEANS POLICY SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED. FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS, MANY SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN -- PARTICULARLY FROM THE EAST AND WEST COASTS -- HAVE UNSUCCESSFULLY TRIED TO PERSUADE THE EXECUTIVE TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. BUT THE EXECUTIVE HAS DOGGEDLY RESISTED WHAT COMMON SENSE AND U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST HAVE DICTATED. NOW, UNDER INTENSE CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC PRESSURE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS FINALLY SEEN THE LIGHT AND CHANGED ITS POLICY. I WELCOME THIS CHANGE. FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE OFF OUR COASTS WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS NOT ONLY FOR THE HEALTH OF THE U.S. FISHING INDUSTRY, BUT ALSO FOR THE ECONOMIC VITALITY OF MAINE, NEW ENGLAND AND THE NATION. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, LAW OF THE SEA, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES, TERRITORIAL WATERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE151065
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: UNP TUCK SCULLY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740187-0469
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740786/aaaahcru.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CARACAS 6363
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971031
Subject: LOS: INITIAL REACTION TO AMBASSADOR STEVENSON'S PLENARY STATEMENT - MEDIA AND MUSKIE
TAGS: OCON, PBOR, PLOS, US, VE, CARACAS, OCON, PBOR, PLOS, (STEVENSON, JOHN R)
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005